



SITUATION REPORT #159



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: May 4, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated on Tuesdays	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring, Case Investigation/Contact Tracing & distribution of Community-wide Vaccinations

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	5056
Recovered	4889
Deaths	64
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	2
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	0
Tests Submitted –	Number
Positivity Rate Walla Walla County for week ending 5/4/2021	6.7%
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	284
College Place	636
Dixie	23
Prescott	128
Touchet/Lowden	91
Waitsburg	82
Walla Walla	3812
Total	5056



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Confirmed Cases by Age	
Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	713
20-39	2080
40-59	1441
60-79	628
Over 80	185
Confirmed Cases by Gender	
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	2103
Male	2953
TOTAL	5056

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled on Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH and community partners have established an equity and access workgroup to improve access to COVID vaccine and education materials for residents that have barriers to registering for vaccine clinics.
- DCH, Providence and Community Partners are holding Mass Vaccination Clinics at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds through Sunday, May 16th; over 37,000 vaccines administered since 1/18/2021. According to CDC Website Walla Walla has 36.2% of total population vaccinated at this time.
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information.
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities.
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence.
- DCH maintains staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with phase of Healthy Washington Plans.
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus briefings.
- DCH went to foodbank over past weekend to distribute fliers regarding availability of vaccine appointments.
- Providence Southgate Urgent Care testing operational daily; see DCH Website for testing locations and added additional locations where testing is available. Utilizing the partnership with Whitman to monitor testing capacity.
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am on Tuesdays
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, May 11th
- DCH attending M-Th DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's



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- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 5/10/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
No Requests Pending.			

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2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.



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- Providence St. Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) stated that previous experience gained in working with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) and other partners on Flu vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- Equity Task Force rollout has been successful.
- The partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.
- LTC facility testing protocols in place were able to detect COVID positive staff member whose only symptoms were fatigue.

3. Risks and challenges

- **COVID-19 Cases**
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 5,056
 - ❖ Recovered: 4,889
 - ❖ Deaths: 64
 - ❖ Active: 103
 - In-Home Isolation: 101
 - Hospitalized: 2, Walla Walla County Residents: 2, Out of County: 0
 - Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) – included in numbers above:
 - ❖ Incarcerated active: 1
 - ❖ Staff active: 0
 - Positivity Rate 2.6%, as of 5/3/21
 - Phase 3 Metrics
 - ❖ New cases: per 100K (14 days): **174** (4/20– 5/3)
 - ❖ Hospitalizations per 100K (7 days): **3** (4/27 – 5/3/21)
 - Trends:
 - Cases are increasing county-wide, especially in residents 20 years and younger. Cases with the younger demographic (high school age) made up 25% of the past week's positive cases.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Coordinated communication of mass vaccination planning effort to the public.
- Seeing a drop in volunteerism for mass vaccination clinics.
- J&J Clinic cancelled due to concerns about clotting being reported in 6 women. Cancellation will likely have a negative effect on people's impression of the overall safety of the vaccine.
- Demand for vaccine is 'sluggish' which is concerning.
- Seeing outbreaks at LTC facilities across the state involving vaccinated employees who are asymptomatic bringing in COVID.
- Have seen a handful of break-through cases in Walla Walla (positive for COVID 2+ weeks after receiving 2nd dose).
- Chamber reports that there is still no interest in masks received from the State for hospitality workers. Workers are reporting that they already have masks, no interest in stopping by the Chamber of Commerce to pick them up. (WWEM will pick up extras once the Chamber feels that they have distributed all that they can.)
- Walla Walla Clinic reports highest volume of tests since mid-February (last week). Family Medical Center is also reporting an increased demand for testing.



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- Vaccinated staff member at long term care facility tested positive for COVID (1st LTC facility employee breakthrough case).

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Walla Walla County Emergency Management (WWEM) is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call is weekly, on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources, including support of mass vaccination clinic.
- WWEM will continue to manage immunization clinic volunteers under the Washington State Emergency Worker Program.
- Walla Walla University Center for Humanitarian Engagement assisting PSMCM with vaccination clinic volunteer scheduling using the Walla Walla Volunteer Corps [website](#).
- DCH weekend staffing.
- PSMCM maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- DCH and PSMCM are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary.
- LTC facilities continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- DCH doing extensive outreach to encourage residents get the COVID vaccine.
- WWSO continue to monitor vaccine clinic activity with periodic visits to the Fairgrounds.
- There will be shorter, more frequent clinics at the Providence Southgate Campus. This will replace the mass vaccination clinics at the County Fairgrounds.

• Upcoming clinic information:

- Tuesday, May 4 – 1st dose clinic / 3pm – 5pm (150 doses) – at Providence St Mary (PSM) Southgate Campus
- Wednesday, May 5 – 1st dose clinic / 3pm – 5pm (150 doses) – at PSM Southgate Campus
- Thursday May 6 - Booster clinic / 3:30pm- 7pm (approx. 1,000) -- from April 14 & 15 at the Fairgrounds
- Saturday, May 8 - Booster clinic / 9am-1pm (~810 booster doses)—from April 17 at the Fairgrounds
- Tuesday, May 11 – 1st dose clinic / 3pm – 5pm (150 doses) – at PSM Southgate
- Wednesday, May 12 – Booster clinic / 3pm – 5pm (~150 doses) – April 21 at PSM Southgate
- Thursday, May 13 – 1st dose clinic / 3pm – 5pm (150 doses) – AT PSM Southgate
- Sunday, May 16 – Booster clinic / 1pm-5pm (times may change) depending on 4/25 clinic at the Fairgrounds ******LAST CLINIC AT THE FAIRGROUNDS******

- City of Walla Walla opened their offices and the Walla Walla Public Library yesterday.



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- Chamber is assisting with Restaurant Revitalization program making sure restaurants have access to these funds.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- Social Media/PIO/Media Requests: eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Continued Disease investigation and Contact tracing with school reopening.

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office